

is due. Indiscriminate conservation on such grounds as these is generally to be deplored but surely it would be a desirable and reasonable action in the case of this small genus.

BOTANY.—*Three new grasses from French Sudan.*¹ A. S. HITCHCOCK,
Bureau of Plant Industry.

In a collection of grasses from French Sudan submitted for identification by the collector, Dr. O. Hagerup, of the Copenhagen Botanical Museum, the following species appear to be undescribed.

***Brachiaria hagerupii* Hitchc., sp. nov.**

Laminis planis, pubescentibus, 8–15 cm. longis, 8–10 mm. latis; paniculis, angustis, 10–15 cm. longis; ramis appressis, rachi pubescente et hispido; spiculis ellipticis, glabris, 3.5 mm. longis; gluma prima 2 mm. longa.

Sheaths glabrous; blades flat, finely pubescent, 8 to 15 cm. long, 8 to 10 mm. wide; panicles narrow, 10 to 15 cm. long, the axis angled, pubescent, the racemes appressed, somewhat overlapping, 2 to 3 cm. long, the rachis pubescent like the axis, also with scattered stiff white hairs; spikelets mostly in pairs, unequally short-pedicelled, glabrous, elliptic, scarcely turgid, narrowed at base, somewhat acuminate, the nerves anastomosing toward the tip; fertile lemma slightly apiculate, rather sharply cross-wrinkled, the pedicels with stiff hairs; first glume about half as long as the spikelet.

Type in the U. S. National Herbarium, no. 1385813, collected at Timbuktu, French Sudan, Africa, August 17, 1927, by O. Hagerup (no. 271).

The specimen shows only the upper part of two culms.

***Eragrostis pallescens* Hitchc., sp. nov.**

Perennis; culmis 60 cm. altis, glabris; vaginis glabris, ore dense piloso; laminis angustis, involutis, glabris, 7–15 cm. longis, longe acuminatis; paniculis pallescentibus, angustis, 15–20 cm. longis, rachi ramisque etiam in axillis glabris; ramis circ. 4 cm. longis; spiculis 5–13 mm. longis, 0.5 mm. latis, 10–30-fl., floribus imbricatis; lemmatibus 1.5 mm. longis, glabris; paleis persistentibus.

Perennial; culms erect from a spreading base, glabrous, about 60 cm. tall; sheaths glabrous, densely pilose at the mouth; blades narrow, involute, glabrous, 7 to 15 cm. long, gradually acuminate to a fine point; panicle narrow, pale, 15 to 20 cm. long, the axis and axils glabrous; branches ascending, about 4 cm. long, the rachis glabrous; spikelets somewhat compressed, closely set, appressed, 5 to 13 mm. long, 0.5 mm. wide, 10 to 30-flowered; lemmas 1.5 mm. long, scaberulous on the keel, imbricate; palea persistent.

Type in the U. S. National Herbarium, no. 1385811, collected at Timbuktu, French Sudan, June 6, 1927, by O. Hagerup (no. 105).

¹ Received June 14, 1929.

Eragrostis albida Hitchc., sp. nov.

Annua; culmis patulis, gracilibus, 15-20 cm. altis; vaginis glabris, ore piloso; laminis angustis, involutis, 1-3 cm. longis; paniculis albescens, patulis, oblongis, in axillis glabris, 5-7 cm. longis; ramis 1-3 cm. longis; spiculis appressis, 4-9 mm. longis, 6-15-fl.; lemmatibus 1.5 mm. longis, acutis; paleis persistentibus.

Annual; culms slender, spreading at base, 15 to 20 cm. tall; sheaths glabrous, pilose at the mouth; blades spreading, very narrow, involute, 1 to 3 cm. long; panicle oblong, open, 5 to 7 cm. long, whitish, glabrous in the axils, the branches spreading or ascending, slender, naked below, 1 to 3 cm. long; spikelets appressed and imbricate, 4 to 9 mm. long, somewhat compressed, 6 to 15-flowered; lemmas 1.5 mm. long, narrowed above and acute; palea persistent.

Type specimen in the U. S. National Herbarium, no. 1385812, collected at Timbuktu, French Sudan, June 22, 1927, by O. Hagerup (no. 107).

ETHNOLOGY.—*A point of resemblance between the ball game of the Southeastern Indians and the ball games of Mexico and Central America.*¹ JOHN R. SWANTON, Bureau of American Ethnology.

My studies of the ball game of our Southeastern Indians have brought out a peculiar feature which seems to have had its counterpart in the ball games of the Nahuatl and Maya farther south. There are considerable differences between the game (or games) as played in these two areas, since among the Mexicans and Central Americans ball-courts of stone were especially constructed for it, very few players participated, and no rackets were used, the ball being propelled by striking it with various parts of the body, usually the hips. Indeed, speaking of the Nahuatl game, Zorita says players were compelled to use the hips and if any other part of the body touched the ball the opponents scored a point. The southern game also differed in providing an opportunity to win by a single shot through a hole in a stone midway of the wall. One of these stones was, of course, placed on each side. But this shot was such a difficult one that, although he who made it won, it was unlucky, since it was not attributed to his skill but to some evil or uncanny quality attaching to him. Zorita says that he was regarded as a thief or an adulterer, or one destined to an early death. Therefore, it is evident that games ordinarily turned upon points obtained in the other ways mentioned.

When I came to study the Creek ball game, it struck me as a curious fact that, while the goals were much like our own in lacrosse, to

¹ Received May 15, 1929.